

Message Text

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ACTION ITF-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 VO-03 SCA-01 H-02 AID-05

SR-02 ORM-01 OPR-02 A-01 SS-15 SSO-00 SCS-03 NSCE-00

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P R 130941Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2564

INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

AMCONSUL MEDAN

CINCPAC PRIORITY

CINCPACFLT PRIORITY

CINCPACREP GUAM PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 2013

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: SREF, VS, SN

SUBJ: VIETNAMESE REFUGEES - SINGAPORE SITREP

REF: SINGAPORE 1990

1. ACCORDING DAO INFO OBTAINED FROM GOS MILITARY SOURCE, TOTAL OF 6,725 REFUGEES HAVE LEFT SINGAPORE AS OF EARLY MORNING MAY 13. THIS INCLUDES ADDITIONAL 436 PERSONS ON 4 VESSELS SINCE LAST REPORT (REFTEL). ACCORDING THIS SOURCE ONE VESSEL (BLUE EAGLE) WITH 400 REFUGEES IS HEADING FOR SUBIC. TWO SMALL FISHING TRAWLERS, EACH CARRYING 9 PERSONS, AND ONE SMALL MERCHANT SHIP WITH 18 PEOPLE ABOARD MAY BE RETURNING TO VIETNAM.

2. IN SOMEWHAT CONFLICTING REPORT STRAITS TIMES MAY 13 CITING MINDEF STATEMENT REPORTS SIX REFUGEE SHIPS WITH UNKNOWN NUMBER OF PASSENGERS HAVE "LEFT THE MAIN FLEET HEADING FOR SUBIC"

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AND "SAILED FOR SAIGON." STRAITS TIMES ALSO REPORTS ARRIVAL OF

ANOTHER THREE FISHING VESSELS WITH 186 REFUGEES. MINDEF STATEMENT SAID "THIS LEAVES 25 SMALL CRAFT WITH 449 REFUGEES AND TWO LARGE SHIPS WITH 858 PERSONS STILL IN SINGAPORE WATERS."

3. ICEM REP STEWART INFORMED EMBASSY AT NOON THAT MINDEF OFFICIAL HAD ADVISED HIM THAT ALL REFUGEES HAD BEEN REMOVED FROM ST. JOHN'S ISLAND, AND HAD BEEN RETURNED TO BOATS. ONLY EXCEPTION WAS GROUP OF APPROXIMATELY 100 ORPHANS AND ORPHANAGE STAFF WHO HAVE BEEN SENT TO CAMP NEAR AIRPORT PRIOR TO DEPARTURE FOR U.S. MAY 14 ON SWISS AIR. STEWART SAID SAME OFFICIAL TOLD HIM THAT THERE WERE ONLY 324 REFUGEES LEFT IN BOATS IN THE HARBOR. MANY OF THEM WERE ON FISHING VESSELS AND GOS WAS PREPARED TO LET THEM STAY BEHIND AND DO SOME FISHING.

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH ABOVE REPORTS PROVIDE CONFUSING AND POSSIBLY CONTRADICTIONARY INFORMATION, IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT GOS IS CONTINUING TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES IN ITS WATERS. GOS MAY BE HESITANT ABOUT REQUIRING DEPARTURE OF SMALLER FISHING VESSELS WHICH MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO MAKE THE LONG TRIP TO SUBIC. CRONK

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